



# INFO

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## Inspections During COVID-19 Outbreak

March 20, 2020

The purpose of this communication is to explain how Construction Services & Inspections (CSI) will respond to inspection requests during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The City of Duluth and CSI are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. We are committed to providing the community with the services they expect and need.

While City Hall is closed to the public, Construction Services & Inspections will continue conducting the building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical inspections services necessary to administer the Minnesota Building Code. The city is required by Minnesota state regulations to administer the building code and conduct inspections, ensuring that buildings and systems are constructed and installed safely and meet minimum required standards.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, The City of Duluth has implemented employee education and practices aimed at reducing the spread of infectious disease, such as increased attention to hand hygiene, hand washing and sanitizing, cough and sneeze etiquette, social distancing, staying home when sick, and the shutdown of City building facilities. City employees are expected to observe these measures. We ask that our partners in the construction industry, business owners and homeowners commit to recommended measures for limiting transmission of the virus.

CSI inspectors are providing inspection services for required inspections at jobsites and residences that provide a safe environment. We do ask that you allow more lead time than usual to schedule an inspection. As soon as you know when you will need an inspection, call your inspector to schedule it at least 24 hours and preferably 48 hours or more ahead of time. A safe environment for inspections includes the following:

- Social distance of at least six feet provided throughout the work site, including at the point of inspection. We ask that as few people as possible occupy the inspection area.
- Workers, residents, and other occupants known to be sick or showing symptoms of a cold or the flu must be isolated from inspectors throughout the site.

When an inspection is requested, the inspector will ask the person requesting the inspection whether specific jobsite safety practices are in place before scheduling an inspection.

In order to minimize opportunities for spread of infectious disease during the COVID-19 outbreak by limiting social contact, inspectors are authorized to be situationally flexible, limiting inspections to only those absolutely necessary and, when possible and practical, using photos, video, and other methods to observe and document that work is compliant with code requirements.

Construction Services & Inspections is committed above all to the health and safety of the community. The COVID-19 outbreak presents challenges to all of us as we work to build a safe community. Working together, we can keep construction projects moving forward while doing our best to reduce risks of the spread of the disease.